

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

JANUARY 22, 2013

On November 30, 2011 and December 1, 2011, powerful windstorms swept through the San Gabriel Valley knocking down 200 utility poles, uprooting 1,300 trees and leaving almost 440,000 customers without power. Full power restoration was not completed until December 8, 2011, more than one week after the incident occurred. Southern California Edison's prolonged restoration time and defective communication and outreach plan prompted the Consumer Protection and Safety Division of the California Public Utilities Commission to investigate the utility company's response to the disaster. The Consumer Protection and Safety Division's report was released on Monday and their findings are disturbing. The report concluded that:

- Edison failed to preserve evidence for inspection by the Consumer Protection and Safety Division that proved their actions led to unnecessary damage and prolonged outages.
- 21 of Edison's utility poles and 17 guy wires did not meet industry safety standards.
- Several conductors showed signs of pitting and deformation indicating they did not meet industry safety standards.
- Lack of vegetation management by Edison may have contributed to utility pole failure.
- Edison did not dispatch dedicated staff to contact its 397 critical care customers during the incident.
- Edison should deploy a reverse-911 system to automatically contact its customers of an outage in a particular area.
- Edison provided the public inaccurate restoration time estimates.

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- Edison should implement in-person “door-to-door” outreach activities during emergencies.
- Edison did not request mutual assistance from other utilities or the California Utility Emergency Organization (CUEO) which could have reduced restoration times.
- Edison’s Corporate Emergency Response and Recovery Plan is outdated, and some of its points of contact included retired PUC staff.
- Edison representatives lacked specific operational knowledge and authority when contacted by the public and government entities.
- Edison violated safety standards by failing to conduct all of its emergency training exercises.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Chief Executive Officer send a five signature letter to the California Public Utilities Commission requesting they monitor and ensure that Southern California Edison correct the deficiencies identified; and

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Office of Emergency Management provide the Board with quarterly reports on Edison’s compliance correcting these deficiencies.

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